

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

200TH BIRTHDAY OF THE U.S. NAVY SUPPLY CORPS

HON. FLOYD SPENCE

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 23, 1995

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the more than 5,000 men and women of the U.S. Navy Supply Corps, active and reserve, who on February 23, 1995 will celebrate its 200th birthday of distinguished service to our Nation and Navy. The naval officers who proudly wear the Supply Corps oak leaf are the business managers of the Navy and are responsible for the logistics support of operating forces in the fleet and naval shore installations worldwide.

The Supply Corps has come a long way since its birth in 1795, when Tench Francis, of Philadelphia, became the first Purveyor of Public Supplies. The original charter of the Supply Corps has distinguished itself throughout its long history by ensuring that the United States has been ready to defend American freedom and interests in every conflict since the War of 1812. Its responsibilities have grown tremendously and have kept pace with the challenge of providing logistics support to a modern, high-technology Navy, which has grown in size and complexity. Today, the Navy Supply Corps employs the latest technologies and management skills to supply our Navy at the lowest possible cost and with the greatest efficiency.

Having progressed from supplying wooden frigates with cannon balls to equipping AEGIS destroyers with Tomahawk cruise missiles, the U.S. Navy Supply Corps continues to carry out its vital mission to keep our Navy well equipped and ready to respond at a moment's notice. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the officers of the U.S. Navy Supply Corps on its 200th birthday.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE SKEEN

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 23, 1995

Mr. SKEEN. Mr. Speaker, on February 16, 1995, I was unavoidably delayed, and I did not record my vote on rollcall No. 140. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING MAX HOPPER

HON. STEVE LARGENT

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 23, 1995

Mr. LARGENT. Mr. Speaker, all of America's travelers owe Max Hopper a note of thanks. I stand here today to express my appreciation for his leadership and his remark-

able contributions to the travel industry. In his 23 years of service with AMR Corporation, Mr. Hopper earned recognition as the father of travel automation for his significant role in developing SABRE into the world's largest computer reservations system.

Thanks to Mr. Hopper's achievements, hundreds of thousands of travel industry professionals in 64 countries worldwide have access to a state-of-the-art global electronic marketplace which enables them to provide the highest quality reservations and information services to consumers.

His was an extraordinary career, and one which merits recognition and a salute from the aviation industry, travel professions, and the traveling public. I wish him good health and happiness in retirement.

DON'T CUT COPS FAST GRANTS

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 23, 1995

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, the Fall River Herald News is a newspaper closely attuned to the needs of the community in which it is located, and surrounding communities. It is a nonpartisan newspaper with an editorial policy that reflects its honest assessment of what is best for the people in its circulation area.

I was therefore very pleased—although not surprised—to see a strong editorial in the February 14 issue of the Herald News which strongly opposes the pending Republican legislation which would undo the law we passed last year providing police officers for our local communities. As the Herald News notes, "the GOP's efforts to rewrite the crime bill amount to little more than a petulant and misguided attempt to deny Clinton and the Democrats any credit for the war on crime. How childish."

Mr. Speaker, this editorial makes an excellent contribution to this current debate and for that reason I ask that it be reprinted here.

[From the Fall River Herald News, Feb. 14, 1995]

DON'T CUT COPS FAST GRANTS

Politics is a truly unique game. We all know the rules: If a member of the opposition party gets caught in some kind of scandal, you cry foul. If a member of your own party gets caught in a scandal, you look the other way.

Sadly, the game is played the same way when it comes to legislating. An idea, a piece of legislation, is never worthy of consideration unless your own party thought of it first. Just ask the Republicans.

The crime bill pushed by President Clinton last fall was hardly free of controversy. Some gun owners objected to the ban on assault weapons, while liberals objected to the expansion of the death penalty. But one thing just about everyone seemed to agree on was the idea of providing funds to thousands of small towns around the nation to hire more police officers. The idea of beefing up local officers on the street has enormous support among the public.

But then again, that bill was passed last fall, when Democrats still controlled Congress. After the November election, Republicans won a majority in both the House and Senate. And the crime bill became an immediate target for them.

Republicans and Democrats have some clear ideological differences on the issue of crime. Republicans want to change federal laws to allow prosecutors to use evidence gathered in violation of the Constitution's Fourth Amendment protections against illegal searches, if it is determined that police acted in good faith. Republicans also want to impose a one-year limit for death row inmates to file federal appeals of their sentences.

Democrats worry that both measures would violate civil liberties and hurt the individual's ability to get a fair trial.

These controversial issues can legitimately be debated by both sides. But what seems far less controversial are the COPS FAST grants, which cover three years to help pay for the salary and benefits of additional police officers. In this region, it provided the Dartmouth Police Department with \$128,524 to hire two new officers, while several other communities got money to hire one officer each, including Berkley, Dighton, Freetown, Rehoboth, Seekonk and Swansea. Outside of drug dealers and other criminals, who's complaining about having more police on the streets?

The GOP is. They say the COPS FAST money should be eliminated and turned into block grants that would be made available to cities and counties. The GOP would allow local officials to decide how to spend the money, rather than "require" communities to spend the funds on new police officers.

But so far, few police chiefs have complained about getting money to hire new officers. As the old saying goes, if it's not broke, don't fix it.

The GOP's efforts to rewrite the crime bill amount to little more than a petulant and misguided attempt to deny Clinton and the Democrats any credit for the war on crime.

How childish.

CRIME BILL EDITORIALS

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 23, 1995

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member wishes to commend two recent editorials regarding H.R. 728, the Local Government Law Enforcement Block Grants Act, to his colleagues. Editorials from Omaha World Herald and the Lincoln Journal support the House-passed local government block grant program over the grant programs in the 1994 crime control bill that would provide money for the COPS program and other specific grant programs.

According to the Lincoln Journal editorial from February 20, 1995:

... When Congress passed a crime bill with a 100,000 officer component last year, dozens

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

of Nebraska communities, including Lincoln, rushed forward to grab the first round of grants and cash in on the chance to add people to their police forces. President Clinton, sensing that 100,00 is still a magic and marvelously symbolic number, has chosen to make it the centerpiece of his first veto threat. Tinker with that portion of the crime bill, he is warning Republicans who are all too anxious to do just that, and bipartisan-ship will go by the boards.

The Journal is certainly interested to hear the news that the President is—apparently—prepared to make one of his few firm stands. But the Journal is not interested in seeing him issue a veto for the sake of a single number—even a six-figure number.

In this case, it is the Republicans who have the better plan. They want to let states and individual communities decide how to take a bite out of crime. They want to distribute money and leave the decision at the local level as to whether it will be spent directly on more police officers or on some other crime efforts that are regarded as more effective.

It make sense for a variety of reasons, including flexibility. In a metropolitan setting, the oft-maligned idea of midnight basketball might actually offer more help in crime prevention. In cities like Lincoln, where community policing is much in vogue, it might make more sense to spend it on a satellite police station or some need that is closely aligned with community policing.

It is also important to note that the Federal commitment to putting more police on the street does not extend to training or equipment and that it is only good for three years. After that, as it appears now, grant recipients would be left to stand the entire cost of however many personnel they hire.

The second editorial is from the February 17, 1995, Omaha World Herald.

NO FALSE PROMISES IN HOUSE CRIME PLAN

President Clinton has been in a huff over congressional efforts to redesign the crime bill he signed into law in 1994. The president says he will veto any attempt to dismantle a program that promised to put 100,000 police officers on the streets.

However, Clinton's claim that the \$8.8 billion allocated by Congress for that purpose would actually finance that many officers has always been suspect. City officials in Omaha and a number of other places soon discovered that Congress had attached so many strings to the money that applying for it was in some cases impractical.

For one thing, cities can't add even one officer unless they put up their own money first—25 percent of the total. The federal funding runs out after five years. Moreover, law enforcement experts said the \$8.8 billion wouldn't come close to covering the cost of hiring, training and equipping 100,000 officers without forcing communities to come up with still more of their own money. By some accounts, the federal money would pay for closer to 20,000 new officers.

The House has now voted to cancel \$7.5 billion in unspent funds for the police buildup. Also canceled would be \$3.9 billion in unspent funds for social programs that the previous Congress had included under the heading of "crime prevention." Instead, the House proposes \$10 billion in block grants to the states. States and cities could design their own anti-crime programs.

Clinton has been adamant about preserving the 100,000-officer program. But the House idea is better. It makes no false promises. And it takes government another step away from the idea that Big Brother in Washington knows more about fighting crime than the mayors and police chiefs who are engaged in that fight every day.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 23, 1995

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, due to unavoidable travel delays I missed two votes taken Tuesday, February 20, 1995.

Had I been present I would have made the following votes:

First, yea on the previous question on Rule H.R. 831.

Second, yea on the rule on H.R. 831.

PROCLAMATION CONGRATULATING MURPHY'S FURNITURE AND CARPET

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 23, 1995

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I commend the following article to my colleagues:

Whereas, Murphy's Furniture & Carpet celebrate its 70th anniversary, founded in 1925 by Theodore T. Murphy; and,

Whereas, the Murphy's Furniture & Carpet is one of Noble County's oldest and most progressive businesses and one of its valued institutions in the Caldwell community; and,

Whereas, this establishment has achieved a praiseworthy record of service as evidenced by its many satisfied customers; and,

Whereas, through enterprises such as Murphy's our country continues to grow and prosper; and,

Whereas, the unwavering dedication to the founder, Theodore T. Murphy and owners Clair J. Murphy and J. Murphy, the employees of Murphy's have been a vital factor in the success of the business, and they are all well deserving of the respect of the community; and,

Whereas, the city of Caldwell and all the surrounding areas of Ohio, with a real sense of pleasure commend Murphy Furniture & Carpet as an outstanding business and join in the celebration of their 70 year anniversary this twenty-third day of February in the year one thousand nine hundred ninety-five.

NATIONAL ENGINEERS WEEK

HON. ROBERT S. WALKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 23, 1995

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Engineers Week. Celebrated annually since 1951, National Engineers Week is intended to raise awareness of the many contributions engineers make to our society.

There are more than 1.8 million engineers in the United States making it the Nation's second largest profession. From building microchips to constructing skyscrapers, engineers contribute a great deal to the productivity of the United States and it is only fitting that we designate this week in their honor.

Many events are planned for this week, including the finals of the National Engineers Week Future City Competition. The competi-

tion features seventh and eighth grade students presenting their computer-designed scale models of 21st century cities.

Each year National Engineers Week coincides with the celebration of Washington's birthday. As a surveyor, Washington is considered the Nation's First Engineer.

As chairman of the House Science Committee, I maintain a great interest in engineering. In every field, in every profession, engineers are an instrumental part of American research and development.

Among my colleagues in the House several are engineers. They include: Representative ROSCOE G. BARTLETT, MD; Representative JOE BARTON, TX; Representative MICHAEL BILIRAKIS, FL; Representative BOB FILNER, CA; Representative JOHN N. HOSTETTLER, IN; Representative JAY KIM, CA; Representative LEWIS F. PAYNE, VA; Representative JOE SKEEN, NM; and the ranking minority member of the Science Committee, Representative GEORGE E. BROWN, JR., CA.

Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues and the American people in paying tribute to the many and varied contributions which engineers have made to this country.

A TRIBUTE TO COMDR. ROY J. BALACONIS

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 23, 1995

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I would like the House of Representatives to take a moment to commend one of the finest officers in the U.S. Navy. He is Comdr. Roy J. Balacanis, of the U.S.S. *Mitscher*, one of the Navy's newest and finest ships, an Aegis Destroyer.

To become the Commander of an Aegis Destroyer, which is the Rolls Royce of the fleet, one must be a tremendous officer. Commander Balacanis certainly fits the bill. He served under the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff during the gulf war, specifically because of his knowledge of the Navy's Tomahawk missile. He had the foresight to develop a thesis which utilized the Tomahawk missile in a scenario where it supported and sustained a surface and air confrontation in the Middle East during the time of crisis * * * and this was some 2 years before Operation Desert Storm/Shield. His thesis basically became the manual for Tomahawk use during the gulf war.

Mr. Speaker, now Commander Balacanis has his own ship, and he is continuing to utilize his unique leadership skills. A member of my staff recently took a tour of his ship, and Commander Balacanis repeatedly stopped to talk to every member of his crew with whom they came into contact. Additionally, there were several members of his crew's families on board, and Commander Balacanis also stopped to speak with each of them, and the concern he showed was genuine. Commander Balacanis always referred to his crew and their families as part of the Mitscher family.

Mr. Speaker, the men on his ship feel his enthusiasm and share in his desire to succeed. The high morale is evident in every

member of his crew, both officers and enlisted. Although being a Commander alone warrants respect, his men respect him for more than that. They respect him because of who he is.

Mr. Speaker, Comdr. Roy Balaconis is a truly dynamic leader, and is definitely an asset to the U.S. Navy and our country. His accomplishments are certainly deserving of our recognition and praise.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 22, 1995

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it has been said that the 1995 National Black History theme represents a milestone in the life of black Americans. It causes us to reflect on the visions of three men who were repressed by slavery, disillusioned by the Bill of Rights, and despite these setbacks—championed the cause for freedom through vigilant and aggressive action.

These three individuals, Frederick Douglas, W.E.B. DuBois, and Booker T. Washington, were prolific scholars and great leaders.

Their determination to change the course of history for black Americans, planted the seeds of progress that later blossomed into the political and economic freedom that we continue to cultivate. The course of history for black Americans was greatly influenced by these three giants, whose visions have seen a nation through 300 years of conflict.

As we celebrate Black History Month, it is important to remember these men * * * who have been termed our first "civil rights generals" in a war that seems to never end.

Mr. Speaker, I want to use my time today to pay tribute to a group of Americans who have given their lives in wars of a different kind: Black Americans who have proudly served their country in the military.

It is not news that more than 25 percent of the young men and women who served our country in the Persian Gulf were black. Were it not for the more than 100,000 thousand black soldiers, sailors, and airmen, former President Bush probably could not have launched the war to drive Saddam Hussein from Kuwait.

Nor is it news, Mr. Speaker, that a disproportionate number of black Americans served in Vietnam. But it is important to remember that black Americans have served in every battle in which this country was ever engaged.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, we can go all the way back to the American Revolution, the first war in our country's history. In the most serious clash between the Americans and the British—the Boston Massacre of 1770—one of the five colonists who fell in action was a runaway slave, Crispus Attucks.

Gen. Andrew Jackson, this country's seventh President, heaped the greatest praise upon the thousands of black soldiers who played a decisive role in the War of 1812.

In the Civil War—this country's bloodiest battle—the question for blacks was this: Would they remain loyal to their immediate oppressors who owned them outright, or would they sacrifice their very lives for the freedom of their race and their country?

The answer was simple. Nearly 200,000 black combat troops fought in the Union Army, and one in every four men in the Union Navy was black.

In this country's First World War, the most famous of the eight Black regiments was unquestionably the "Fighting 369th." In 1918, this unit went into action and remained on the front lines for 191 consecutive days—"Without losing a trench, retreating an inch, or surrendering a prisoner."

Upon their triumphant return to this country, Dr. W.E.B. DuBois served notice on America that returning black servicemen meant to realize full equality under the law as first-class citizens. He said:

We stand again to look America squarely in the face. It lynches, It disenfranchises, It insults us.—we return fighting. Make way for democracy. We saved it in France, and we will save it in the U.S.A.

On the infamous morning of December 7, 1941, when Japanese fighters flew over Pearl Harbor and rained a hail of bombs and bullets on the slumbering U.S. Naval Base, Dorie Miller, a black messman, was going about his duties collecting the laundry, when the sounds of battle sirens and exploding shells rent the air.

Miller rushed up on deck, and instantly hauled his wounded captain to safety. Moments later, he sprung into action behind an anti-aircraft gun he had never been trained to operate.

Firing calmly and accurately, he brought down four zero fighter planes before the cry to abandon ship was heeded by all survivors. On May 7, 1942, this great seaman was cited for bravery by Fleet Adm. Chester Nimitz, who decorated him with a Silver Star, and so acknowledged the Nation's debt to a black man of "extraordinary courage."

Mr. Speaker, as a child I can remember assisting my father in his plans to welcome home Dorie Miller, a fellow Texan. As a Member of congress, I have introduced legislation to pay the appropriate tribute to this great American, who fought so nobly for his country, the Congressional Medal of Honor.

The experience of settling America, and the burden of defending it, have been shared by many groups of people. As one historian has noted—blacks, too, have built this Nation, forged its destiny in peace, and defended it in war. Black men and women began serving America long before the Nation had come into being, and have fought long and honorably in every major American conflict since.

America is free because, as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, "Though they have often been reduced to a 'fifty percent citizen' on American soil, black soldiers have always been one hundred percent citizens in warfare."

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting and proper that we recognize and honor the vast contributions to this Nation's military history, and this country's freedom, by black men and women who have fought and died for a better world.

AMADOR HIGH SCHOOL RECOGNITION

HON. BILL BAKER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 23, 1995

Mr. BAKER of California. Mr. Speaker it is with great pleasure that I commend an outstanding group of young people from Amador Valley High School in Pleasanton, CA, who have, for the second year in a row, won the California championship in the State's annual "Bill of Rights" competition.

This superb program, the full title of which is "We the People . . . the Citizen and the Constitution," encourages debate and speech competition among high school students as they discuss the meaning of the Constitution for our day. The competition, established by the U.S. Congress and the Department of Education, is a dynamic way of encouraging young men and women to consider the ongoing importance of the Constitution to our daily lives.

The Amador Valley team, ably coached by civics teacher Skip Mohatt, is now raising funds to come to the national championship competition in here in Washington, April 29 through May 2. Having placed third in last year's national contest, they are eager to come back and compete again.

These teenagers are discovering in an exciting way how our amazing Constitution continues to enable us to live as a free people. They deserve high praise for their commitment to academic excellence, energetic scholarship, and true intellectual curiosity. I am pleased to commend them in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

HONORING MR. ROBERT L. CALLAHAN

HON. JOHN LINDER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 23, 1995

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend a fellow citizen of the State of Georgia and a great American, Mr. Robert L. Callahan, Jr. Over nearly 35 years of legal practice in the field of administrative law, Mr. Callahan has made tremendous and far-reaching contributions to the development of administrative law in general, as well as to the development of food and drug law in particular. He has been a tireless worker, without fanfare or public recognition, in support of common sense and fair play in the practice of law. Mr. Callahan's efforts have helped to shape much of a U.S. system of food law and regulation that is generally taken for granted but which literally affects every American daily.

It is because of these accomplishments that I ask my colleagues to join me today in this commendation of Mr. Robert L. Callahan, Jr.

TRIBUTE TO MORT PYE

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 23, 1995

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring attention to the career of the preeminent newsman in the State on New Jersey.

Mort Pye has recently retired after spending 32 years as editor of the Star-Ledger in Newark, building it into the largest and most-respected newspaper in our State. Thanks to Mr. Pye's work, the Star-Ledger is not only the largest circulation newspaper in New Jersey but the 14th-largest daily paper in the Nation. Its Sunday edition ranks as the 12th-largest newspaper in the Nation. That translates into nearly 1.3 million daily readers and 1.9 million on Sundays.

I have known Mr. Pye throughout my public life and have particularly fond memories from the many editorial board meetings I attended in Newark. Mr. Pye was always the most insightful questioner at these sessions, yet he also knew how to sit back and listen to the answers. Being a good listener is one of the hallmarks of a good journalist. I grew to have only the highest respect for his professionalism and the personal integrity he brought on the Star-Ledger. The preeminence the paper has achieved in journalistic circles is a direct reflection of his professionalism.

Mr. Pye holds an honorary doctorate degree from Rutgers University. But he is not one of the new-style reporters who emerge from lofty journalism programs in big-name universities with an advanced academic degree but no idea of which end of the pencil to use. Instead, he is a good, old-fashioned newsman, and proud of the well-earned title.

Mr. Pye began his newspaper career 54 years ago at the Long Island Press, where he started as a reporter and rose through the ranks to become assistant editor. He covered fires, accidents, courts, town councils, politics, features, and all the other bread-and-butter stories that make up daily newspaper work. By the time he came to the Star-Ledger in 1957 as managing editor he was a seasoned veteran. He was promoted to editor in 1963 as further recognition of his ability to impart his skills and love of journalism to younger reporters and editors.

Under Mr. Pye's direction, the Star-Ledger grew in circulation and news coverage, establishing 15 news bureaus across our State. Staff members from these bureaus and the main office in Newark cover virtually every story of any significance that takes place in New Jersey, from town council meetings to national headlines. The Star-Ledger has the largest bureau at our Statehouse in Trenton—11 full-time reporters—giving New Jerseyans the most-detailed account of their State government available anywhere. In addition, the Star-Ledger currently has the only Washington bureau operated by a New Jersey newspaper.

Donald Newhouse, president of the Star-Ledger, described Mr. Pye's dedication in a recent article, which I quote: "Mr. Pye has 'charted the paper's course, established the policies required to follow that course and directed the day-to-day activities that carry out those policies.' He has, in fact, created 'The Newspaper for New Jersey.'"

I agree. Mort Pye has truly made the Star-Ledger the "Newspaper for New Jersey." I join his countless admirers and friends throughout New Jersey in wishing him Godspeed and much-deserved enjoyment in retirement.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM HENRY HADDIX

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 23, 1995

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, 50 years ago a small group of marines raised a flag on a faraway island in the Pacific Ocean: Iwo Jima. The scene was immortalized for all Americans in the famous photo and memorial statue near Arlington Cemetery.

The battle for Iwo Jima paved the way to victory over Japan. It was not without cost; 6,000 Marines were killed. Pvt. William Henry Haddix was one of these who made the supreme sacrifice of his life. A lad of just 22 when he died, Bill left behind a young wife and two small children.

He also left behind a beautiful and precious legacy. Just days before he died he had written his wife and family. Private Haddix's daughter—Susan Haddix Harrison from Jackson, MI—has generously shared his deeply moving and meaningful letter with me. The letter includes a poem by Private Haddix about his experience on Iwo Jima. Interwoven in the fabric of the words are the golden threads of faith in God and duty to country.

IWO JIMA

I have landed on an island
In the Pacific salty air
where heat, rain, mud and bugs
are an everyday affair.

The nights are long and dreary
as the pale moon lights the sky,
and I lie awake a thinking
as the hours creep slowly by.

Where men must go on fighting
for land that must be won
In dirt, grit, slime and sweat
beneath the burning sun.

I can't help but dream of home
and the ones I love so dear,
It makes a man cuss the day
he ever landed here.

All luxuries are forgotten
In this land so far away
and it takes a lot of guts
for the guy who has to stay.

I pray for you my darling
every single night
and know God will care for you
because you're living right.

When we meet our enemy
be it day or night
It's do or die for that poor guy
for we fight with all our might.

Should I ever receive a call from God
I know darn good and well,
That I'm bound to go to heaven
for I've served my time in Hell.

William H. Haddix,
Private, 28th Re-
placement Draft,
Co. B, 3rd Marine
Division.

Private Haddix did not ask that he may live. He was prepared to die if need be. All he asked is that he may be ready if he was called. And he asked that his sacrifice may not be in vain.

Today, we salute Private Haddix and all the men of honor and courage who fought beside him five decades ago. We should always remember their bravery, their honor, and their dedication to our Nation. Our most precious inheritance is freedom, but we should remember that it was not free to those who earned it.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 22, 1995

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, today, as we celebrate Black History Month, I would like to recognize 258 African-American World War II veterans who have wrongfully had to live with the shame of being mutineers. For over 50 years, some of these men have hidden their past, when it should be proudly and widely shared with the rest of our country.

In 1944, when our Nation was at war with one of the world's most infamous racists—Adolph Hitler—almost all the men assigned to load munitions onto Liberty ships in this country were black. Upon their enlistment, many of the black naval recruits expected to be trained as sailors and go to sea, but instead, were assigned without proper training to the menial and dangerous work at the Port Chicago Naval Weapons Station in the San Francisco Bay area. During their stint at Port Chicago black sailors were quickly introduced to the discriminatory attitude of the Navy.

Then on July 17, at 10:18 p.m., two explosions with a force equal to the bomb dropped on Hiroshima nearly leveled the area. Two military cargo ships loaded with ammunition and the entire Port Chicago waterfront were vaporized by the blast and literally disappeared from the face of the earth. The blast left 320 dead, of which 202 were black. After a relatively short investigation, the cause of the explosion was never identified.

Shortly afterward, another tragedy ensued. On August 9, after spending several weeks picking up the remains of their friends, the surviving black sailors were ordered to return to loading ammunition at Mare Island under the same unsafe conditions that sparked the explosion in July. Afraid, 258 of them refused to comply and were immediately imprisoned on a barge. Several days later, after being threatened with the death penalty, 208 of them agreed to return to work. The remaining 50 were charged—not with disobeying an order—but with mutiny, an act punishable by death.

The court-martial proceedings were "one of the worst frame-ups we have come across," wrote NAACP attorney Thurgood Marshall in his appeal on behalf of the men. The shame of these mutiny trials also aroused the passion and activism of First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt when she wrote a letter to the Secretary of the Navy asking for leniency in the sentencing of the men. Mrs. Roosevelt was one voice among many who joined in the campaign on behalf of the convicted Port Chicago sailors. Recent revelations discovered by Oakland, CA, author Robert Allen, Ph.D., fully exposed the racial segregation and bias in the Navy

and strongly support Justice Marshall's belief that the black sailors did not receive a fair trial because of their race.

The court-martial convictions of these African-American sailors was not only a great injustice, but also an event in our country's history that should be duly recognized. Historians believe that the Port Chicago explosion and the following events helped speed the desegregation of the military by President Truman. As we well know, this action earned him a place in our history books as a great advocate of civil rights. However, the men who valiantly protested the conditions in Port Chicago, have had to live with the shame of being mutineers.

In recent years, Congress initiated efforts to secure a review of these convictions based on new evidence that demonstrated significant racial prejudice in the trial proceedings. On January 7, 1994, the Navy refused to overturn the convictions following a review mandated by legislation approved by Congress. Although the Navy found that racial discrimination had existed, it decided there was no basis for overturning the convictions. More recently, Congressmen RONALD DELLUMS, GEORGE MILLER, and myself have urged President Clinton to consider expunging their records.

Many of these veterans and their families have lived with this unjust decision for many years. It is time for the United States to admit to this national disgrace and remove the stigma of dishonor from these brave men. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the contribution of these civil rights leaders to our country.

THE DANGERS OF PLUTONIUM

HON. RONALD V. DELLUMS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 23, 1995

Mr. DELLUMS. Mr. Speaker, today more than 300 people are gathered in Berkeley, CA, in the 9th California District, to mark the 54th anniversary of the discovery of plutonium on the University of California's Berkeley campus. They gather to express their concerns about the dangers associated with the continued trafficking in highly toxic radioactive plutonium and plutonium waste. The principle vehicle for this will be a public hearing on "The History and Consequences of Civilian Plutonium Use."

The event that has brought them together is the Pacific Plutonium Forum, sponsored by Plutonium Free Future, a United States-Japan citizens's organization and the Plutonium Free Future Women's Network, a women's international campaign for safe energy based in Berkeley. They are acting in cooperation with the Citizens' Nuclear Information Center of Tokyo; the Nuclear Control Institute of Washington, DC; the Plutonium Action Network of

Hiroshima and Kyoto; and, the World Information Service on Energy of Paris.

The forum has attracted a distinguished list of participants, including His Excellency Bernard Dowiyogo, President of the island nation of Nauru in the Pacific; Dr. Carlos Arellano Lennox, director of Environmental Research at the Panama Canal Institute of the University of Panama and the former president of Panama's National Assembly; as well as representatives from more than 20 countries, including leading scientists, scholars, experts on energy and the environment, and citizens activists.

The forum also will include a candlelight vigil: to heal the wounds of the nuclear age, fitting held on the campus at which Nobel Laureates Drs. Glenn Seaborg and Ed McMillan discovered plutonium 54 years ago today.

Participants are gathered to consider alternatives to plutonium energy production and to urge all nations involved to cease such programs and to seek safer, more ecologically sound energy alternatives. Ending civilian plutonium use by all nations will ease serious environmental threats and will reduce for all who inhabit the globe the national security risks posed by the potential for the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

I join with the forum participants in highlighting our deep concerns over this week's sea shipment of 1,200 tons of high-level plutonium waste from France to Japan, most likely via the Panama Canal. This toxic, radioactive waste is produced by extracting plutonium from the spent fuel of Japanese nuclear reactors—much of the original fuel for which was composed of U.S.-origin materials.

There is considerable scientific evidence suggesting that the containers in which this waste is to be shipped do not meet sufficient safety requirements, and that they may be susceptible to damage by fire, corrosion, or collision during transport at sea and by the additional dangers of these type posed by their ultimate placement in the highly active seismic zone of Japan Aomori prefecture.

A number of my colleagues have called on President Clinton, Energy Secretary O'Leary, and other senior administration officials to urge Japan, France, and Great Britain—the Governments most directly involved—to postpone the planned shipment until the critical environmental, health, and safety issues can be addressed and satisfactorily answered. Today, I join with these colleagues in calling for the shipment to be postponed until a definitive scientific assessment on the risks involved can be completed.

I also will ask the Departments of Energy, Defense, and State to review their approval of these sea shipments of plutonium and plutonium waste and to seek ways to assist Japan with finding alternatives for energy security that do not involve the use of plutonium.

Beyond raising our concerns regarding the transport of plutonium, I join the Forum's participants in calling for a critical reappraisal of the role of nuclear weapons in national security strategies and the efficacy of the continued civilian use of plutonium in energy production. As we approach the 50th anniversaries of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, it is incumbent on the world community to assess the entire legacy of the nuclear age, both positive and negative, and to form new policies for the next 50 years that better serve the world's environmental and energy needs.

I proudly join the citizens of Berkeley who, 2 years ago, passed the first public resolution calling for a plutonium-free world, and who have this week reaffirmed that clear and courageous conviction by organizing this historic gathering.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to reflect on the dangers that plutonium poses to our security and the world's environment and, I congratulate these citizens for taking the time to further explore this problem at today's Forum.

RECOGNITION OF REBEL ROY STEINER, JR.

HON. EARL F. HILLIARD

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 23, 1995

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an outstanding young jurist from my congressional district, Mr. Rebel Roy Steiner, Jr., of Birmingham.

Mr. Steiner has just been named a partner in the Los Angeles law firm of Loeb & Loeb, one of our Nation's largest law firms which specializes in the music and motion picture industry. Mr. Steiner was named a partner to the firm's entertainment law division.

I am especially proud of this young man because he is a shining example of how a good education can better your life. Mr. Steiner was educated in the public schools of Birmingham, the University of Alabama, where he received a B.A. degree in history, and was selected a member of Phi Beta Kappa National Honor Society. He then attended the Yale Law School.

Many of our young people think it only a distant dream to be able to work on record and motion picture soundtracks with stars such as Vince Gill, Frank Sinatra, and Diana Ross. Rebel Steiner knows that these goals are more than mere dreams, they are all attainable with hard work, and a will to succeed. My heartfelt congratulations are extended to Mr. Steiner, and his family.